



Washington State Department of Agriculture ➔ Endangered Species Program Newsletter

## WSDA discusses state ESA activities with EPA

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) met with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, D.C. March 20-21 to discuss the state's activities to protect threatened and endangered salmonids. A key component of the WSDA effort is the collection of state-specific data. EPA agreed that state-specific data would portray the relationship between agriculture practices and salmonid habitat in Washington state more accurately than modeling.

State-specific data being compiled by WSDA includes:

- Pesticide use profiles – specific pesticide information, major usage estimates by commodity and the pest, method, timing and location for each application.
- Crop profiles – description of where specific crops are grown, typical pesticides used and timing of applications.
- Crop maps – agricultural land use in Washington state, accurate to the quarter section.
- Database – database to manage surface water monitoring data from Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Geological Survey and EPA.

WSDA proposed incorporating these components into a state-initiated plan. EPA supported this proposal and asked WSDA to develop, and when completed, submit a state-initiated plan. While the state-initiated plan is being developed, WSDA and EPA have established a process to provide state-specific data for pesticides undergoing effects determinations as part of the consultation process between EPA and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The consultations are a result of a July 2002 federal court ruling that requires EPA to ensure that it does not allow pesticide uses that harm threatened and endangered salmonids. ➔

## WSDA proposes components for state-initiated plan

WSDA has proposed three key components for the Washington state-initiated plan.

- 1) Provide state-specific data to EPA for effects determinations
- 2) Provide state-specific data to NMFS for consideration in biological opinions
- 3) Develop county bulletins for pesticides that EPA has determined need mitigation

To see how each of the three WSDA Endangered Species Program (ESP) components relates to the EPA process, see the flowchart on Page 2.

A state-initiated plan must meet two criteria: 1) EPA must be convinced the plan presented can be implemented; and 2) NMFS and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must approve the plan. WSDA will work with EPA, NMFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Washington State Pesticide Advisory Board and interested stakeholders to develop the Washington state-initiated plan.

*Announcements regarding participation in the development of the state-initiated plan will be distributed by e-mail using the pesticide/ESA Newsletter distribution list. ➔*

## Ad hoc committee to meet May 14



The next meeting of the Pesticide Advisory Board ad hoc committee on surface water monitoring will meet in Olympia from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. May 14 in Room 259, Natural Resources Building at 1111 Washington St. ➔



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## PROGRAM CONTACTS

**Bridget Moran**  
Program Coordinator/  
Environmental Toxicologist  
(360) 902-1936  
[bmoran@agr.wa.gov](mailto:bmoran@agr.wa.gov)

**Deborah Bahs**  
Western WA ESA Specialist  
(360) 902-2067  
[dbahs@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dbahs@agr.wa.gov)

**Perry Beale**  
Crops & Mapping Specialist  
(360) 902-2065  
[pbeale@agr.wa.gov](mailto:pbeale@agr.wa.gov)

**Jim Cowles, Ph.D.**  
Environmental Toxicologist  
(360) 902-2066  
[jcowles@agr.wa.gov](mailto:jcowles@agr.wa.gov)

**Ed Thompson**  
IT Application Specialist  
(360) 902-2064  
[ethompson@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ethompson@agr.wa.gov)

**Ed Von Grey**  
Eastern WA ESA Specialist  
(509) 662-0439  
[EVonGrey@agr.wa.gov](mailto:EVonGrey@agr.wa.gov)

## QUESTIONS?

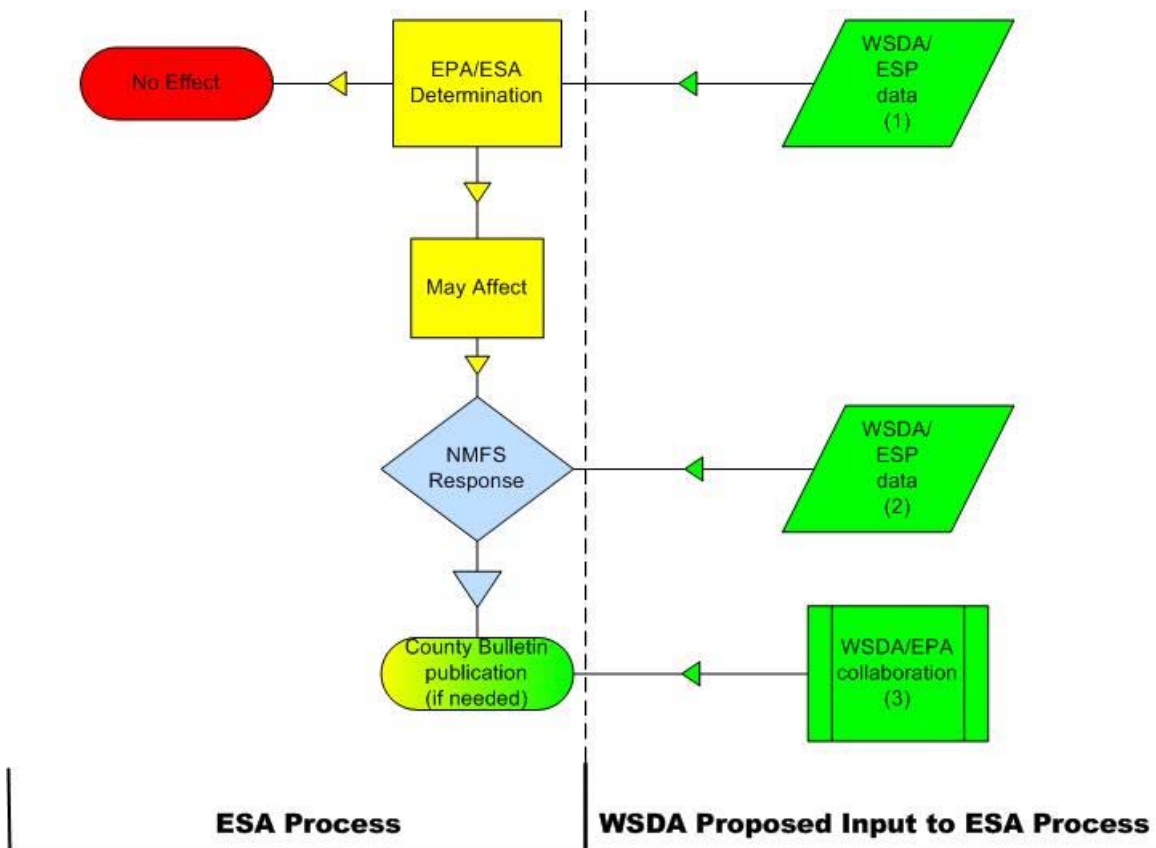
For more information about the Endangered Species Program, visit our Web site at [agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/EndangSpecies.htm](http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/EndangSpecies.htm)

WSDA welcomes your input. Please send your comments and questions to the Endangered Species Program [esp@agr.wa.gov](mailto:esp@agr.wa.gov)

**Awareness**

**Action**

**Recovery**



WSDA/  
ESP  
data  
(1)

**(1) WSDA provides state-specific data to EPA for effects determination.**

State-specific data is necessary to mitigate the conservative assumptions that EPA uses for risk assessments. EPA typically assumes that an applicator uses the maximum application rate, number of applications and the shortest application interval, and treats 100 percent of the crop. By providing EPA with information on how a specific pesticide is used in Washington state, WSDA anticipates that EPA will develop locally accurate exposure estimates for effects determinations.

WSDA/  
ESP  
data  
(2)

**(2) WSDA provides state-specific data to NMFS for biological opinions.**

State-specific data is valuable information for NMFS to use when developing a biological opinion to determine effects on salmonids. By providing a Washington state pesticide use profile to NMFS, WSDA expects NMFS will be less likely to use a maximum exposure scenario to write a biological opinion. WSDA can also provide site-specific salmonid presence data to NMFS for identification of habitat locations on a smaller scale.

WSDA/EPA  
collaboration  
(3)

**(3) WSDA and EPA develop county bulletins for mitigation measures.**

If it is necessary to develop a county bulletin for a pesticide that is determined to need mitigation, WSDA will work with stakeholders to develop mitigation measures that make sense for Washington growers. WSDA envisions a tiered process to reduce exposure that starts with the implementation of best management practices. It is the goal of WSDA to preserve the use of a pesticide while ensuring adequate protection of salmonids. ➔

*Awareness*

*Action*

*Recovery*